



# STAYING THE COURSE

## GOVERNOR GRAY DAVIS'

### 2002-03 Commitment to Better Schools

Governor Davis has built a solid record of achievement on education reform, providing record funding and new direction to raise standards and expectations for every student at every school. With his 2002-03 budget he stays the course on programs to hold schools accountable for improved student achievement, to recruit qualified teachers to California classrooms and to assist low-performing schools to meet higher standards.

#### Accountability:

**Governor Davis has maintained his commitment** to holding schools, administrators and school districts accountable for the academic achievement of California's students. Along with a continued focus on higher standards and accountability, the Governor's 2002-03 budget provides more than \$400 million to assist low-performing schools in improving student achievement. Priority in funding will be provided to schools with the lowest API scores. Participating schools receive annual grants of up to \$400 per pupil to implement an action plan focusing on the following essential components: pupil literacy and achievement; quality of staff; parental involvement and facilities, curriculum, instructional materials, and support services.

#### Streamlining Instructional Resources:

**Placing standards-aligned materials in every classroom** is a continuing priority for Governor Davis. In his 2002-03 budget, Governor Davis proposes to combine funding for the Instructional Materials, K-4 Classroom Library Materials, and School Library programs into a single Instructional Materials block grant to provide school districts more flexibility to ensure that standards-aligned materials get into the classroom. Under this new block grant, once standards-aligned textbooks are provided for each student, schools may use remaining funds for classroom and school libraries. Governor Davis also proposes to increase funding for the Instructional Materials Block Grant from \$250 million to a total of \$350 million in 2003-2004, \$450 million in 2004-2005, \$550 million in 2005-2006, and \$600 million in 2006-2007.

#### Teacher Recruitment:

**Recognizing that qualified teachers are critical to student academic success**, Governor Davis has created a nationally recognized program of incentives and recruitment efforts to attract qualified teachers into the classrooms where they are needed most.

These programs include **\$118.7 million for the Teaching As A Priority Block Grant**, which provides school districts with grants to design locally tailored recruitment centers, such as housing incentives or signing bonuses, and **\$9.4 million for the Teacher Recruitment Incentive Program**, which works to place credentialed teachers in low-performing schools. Both are fully funded in the 2002-03 Budget.

The Budget also includes **\$25.6 million for the Alternative Certification Program**, which allows college graduates to teach full-time while working to earn a teaching credential. The **California School Paraprofessional Teacher Training Program**, which provides an opportunity for individuals to work as instructional aides while earning a college degree and ultimately a teaching credential, is funded with \$7.5 million. To further assist in recruiting teachers, the Governor has signed legislation eliminating the initial credential fee for new teachers.



# STAYING THE COURSE GOVERNOR GRAY DAVIS'

## 2002-03 Commitment to Better Schools

### Before and After School Expansion:

**To improve student achievement** and provide a safe learning environment for 79,000 additional school-age children with working parents, Governor Davis' budget includes a \$75 million augmentation to expand the Before and After School Learning and Safe Neighborhoods Partnerships Program. This program, funded at a total of \$162.8 million, provides homework assistance, tutoring and English Language instruction before and after regular school hours.

### Teacher and Principal Training:

**Building on the Governor's current efforts** to ensure a fully qualified teacher in every classroom, the 2002-2003 Budget contains more than \$200 million to provide intensive standards-based training for teachers and instructional aides in core subjects and instructional standards. The Governor's California Professional Development Institutes will receive \$98.9 million, and \$110.0 million to the Intensive Reading and Mathematics Professional Development Program.

**Strong school site leadership**, along with effective teachers trained in California's rigorous academic standards, are critical to school success. The Governor's 2002-03 Budget includes \$7.5 million for the second year of funding for the Principal Training Act, sponsored by Governor Davis in 2001 to provide every principal and vice-principal in the state with training in instructional standards and effective school management techniques. Over a three-year period, beginning in 2001-02, the state will spend \$45 million to provide \$3,000 per individual to more than 15,000 school administrators. The Administration has secured a grant from the Gates Foundation that will provide school districts the local match of \$1,000 for each principal and \$500 for each vice-principal.

By the end of the fiscal 2002-2003 fiscal year, nearly 200,000 teachers, instructional aides, principals and vice principals will have been trained.

### Bonds to Improve School Facilities:

**Under the Davis Administration**, the state has disbursed \$5.8 billion in general obligation bond funds for school facilities needs, with the remainder of Proposition 1A funds expected to be awarded by summer of 2002. Governor Davis also championed Proposition 39 on the November 2000 ballot, which reduced the voter approval requirement for local school facilities bonds from two-thirds (66.6 percent) passage to 55 percent passage. Since the passage of Proposition 39, 40 of 46 K-12 school bond measures have passed, resulting in \$2.4 billion in additional local bond funding for schools.

Recognizing the continuing need to build and modernize California's schools, Governor Davis has supported three general obligation bond measures of \$10 billion to be placed before voters on each of the 2002, 2004 and 2006 statewide election ballots. Each of these proposed bond measures would be crafted to meet both K-12 and higher education needs, with \$8 billion in matching funds for K-12 school facilities and \$2 billion in funding for higher education facilities.